

## LEDUM GROENLANDICUM REDISCOVERED IN CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS

RAY ANGELO

In spite of 155 years of intense botanizing in Concord, Massachusetts, by such dedicated amateurs as Henry Thoreau and Richard J. Eaton, one of the largest bogs in the township has apparently been overlooked by all but one botanical enthusiast of the past. It seems, however, that this one (Minot Pratt) did not adequately convey his knowledge to future generations.

The bog is 1.1 km northeast of the juncture of the townships of Concord, Acton, Maynard, and Sudbury. On August 22, 1978, I entered this bog and within a short time came upon a small but apparently thriving colony of *Ledum groenlandicum* Oeder. This species is among the one dozen listed by the late Richard J. Eaton in his *A Flora of Concord* (1974) as having been extirpated in the township.<sup>1</sup>

The single station of *Ledum* known to Eaton and others was a small and curious roadside bog that also harbored the locally very rare *Arceuthobium pusillum* Peck parasitic on *Picea mariana* (Mill.) BSP. It was here that Henry Thoreau first found *Ledum* in Concord on February 4, 1858. This bog was gradually ruined by the drainage and brush-cutting operations of its farmer owners. (Eaton, 1935).<sup>2</sup>

In his manuscript "Plants of Concord" (1878) Minot Pratt noted that *Ledum* occurred in *two* bogs in the township, both in the southwest quarter of the town. The two bogs are evidently the well-known one and the overlooked one, both in the southwest quarter. Mr. Pratt, notorious for his introduction of plants into Concord,<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup>*Chamaecyparis thyoides* (L.) BSP., also on this list, has since been found at two sites in the town.

EATON, R. J. 1974. *A Flora of Concord*.

<sup>2</sup>EATON, R. J. 1935. The waning of *Arceuthobium* at Concord, Massachusetts. *Rhodora* 37: 413-414.

<sup>3</sup>HOSMER, A. W. 1899. On the plants introduced by Minot Pratt at Concord, Massachusetts. *Rhodora* 1: 168-72.

PRATT, M. 1878. *Plants of Concord*.

does not indicate in his manuscript that he placed any *Ledum* in the town (as he indicates for other species). Consequently, the rediscovery of the second station maintains Concord at the southeastern limit of the range of *Ledum groenlandicum* in New England.

Other locally scarce species found in the bog are *Woodwardia virginica* (L.) Sm., *Larix laricina* (DuRoi) K. Koch, *Kalmia polifolia* Wang., and *Vaccinium oxycoccus* L. The prospect remains of finding a few of the orchid species thought to be extinct in the town.

CONCORD FIELD STATION

BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS 01730